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Message Text

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53
ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

AID-05 IO-10 HEW-02 /032 W
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P R 151124Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1316
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19418

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES REMAINING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: STATE 216690

1. WE ARE IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH APPROACH OUTLINED REFTEL. OUR ROUGH ESTIMATES OF THOSE REFUGEES REMAINING IN CATE-GORIES I AND II ARE:

CAMBODIANS - 200
VIETNAMESE - 200
LAO - 1000 (INCLUDES 700 MEO)
BLACK THAI - 100

2. THESE FIGURES INCLUDE REVISED ESTIMATES OF U.S.G., EMPLOYED ETHNIC LAO/MEO, ENCAMPED AT NONG KAI AND NAMPONG, WHO BECAUSE OF THAI TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO REGISTER WITH CONSUL AT UDORN. MANY WHO WERE AREHOUSE MEN, ELECTRICIANS, MEDICS, NRUSES, CLERK TYPISTS, ETC., WITH USAID SPEAK ENGLISH, WERE CHIRISTIANS AND ARE USED TO A COOL CLIMATE. THEY ARE SLOWLY MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE CONSUL AND TO EMBASSY BANGKOK SEEKING ASYLUM. WE HAVE NOT SOLICITED THEIR REGISTRATION BY VISITING THE CAMPS.

3. PROPOSED SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NEW CATEGORY III APPEAR
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TO BE FAIR. WE PROPOSE TO ADD, HOWEVER, THOSE FEW OFFICIALS

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OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY WHO WERE NOT PROCESSED BEFORE OUR INITIAL QUOTA WAS EXHAUSTED. IN ALL, PROBABLY 200 TO 300 VIET-NAMESE COULD QUALIFY UNDER PROPOSED CATEGORY III DEFINITION. THIS WOULD REMOVE ALMOST ALL OF THE REMAINING VIETNAMESE WHO CAME TO THAILAND BEFORE JULY 1. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT 500 CATEGORY III NUMBERS FOR CAMBODIANS WILL BE ADEQUATE TO COMPLETE THAT PHASE OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT ABOUT 600 LAO AND 300 THAI DAM WILL QUALIFY UNDER CATEGORY III. THIS WOULD PUT OUR TOTAL FOR CATEGORY 3 AT 1600 TO 1700.

4. AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM, BETWEEN 500 AND 1,000 VIET-NAMESE WHO ARRIVED AFTER JULY 1 WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND. THESE ARE PRIMARILY VIETNAMESE FROM LAOS, MANY OF WHOM WILL PROBABLY FALL IN CATEGORY I. WE ARE SURE THAT RELATIVES OF THESE VIETNAMESE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THEIR PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES. IN MANY CASES IT WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE DATES OF FLIGHT FROM LAOS. IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO SUBMIT MANY OF THESE CASES FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION UNDER INDIVIDUAL PAROLE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO THE 35,000 MEO WE ESTIMATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 6000 ETHNIC LAO AND OTHER (IE YAO 2000) ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS FROM LAOS WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND.
MASTERS

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